

# *Sketch*

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*Volume 33, Number 3*

1967

*Article 9*

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## Brotherhood

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# Brotherhood

Paul Kratoska

## **Abstract**

On the near south side The elevated runs down an alley, Sliding past small hotels With fire escapes climbing their sides. Through a chain link fence The sign says, "Roomettes for Men."

# Brotherhood

*by Paul Kratoska*

*English, Sr.*

On the near south side  
The elevated runs down an alley,  
Sliding past small hotels  
With fire escapes climbing their sides.  
Through a chain link fence  
The sign says, "Roomettes for Men."  
You can see their occupants  
Moving from room to room  
In the dirty light;  
Or resting in the windows,  
Looking out at the pigeon-fouled alley.  
Would you look on them with compassion,  
Saying, "These are the least of my brethren"?  
You are just a figure in a suit  
On the other side of a chain link fence,  
And there is time only  
For another hot evening to spill  
Onto the fire escapes above the tracks.  
The poor know true equality,  
But that fence is forever.